

Bereaved

A Drama of Mexico

By F. A. MITCHEL

Ever since the revolution in Mexico that deposed Porfirio Diaz that country has been in a state of ferment and has kept the people of the United States in a fever of anxiety. During the rule of President Huerta I, being of an inquiring disposition, concluded to go down there and see for myself what kind of people the Mexicans are.

Passing over the border line of Texas, I entered rural Mexico and moved on southward, intending to visit the capital. There were then the Huerta, the Carranza and the Villa factions, all struggling for the upper hand. The frightful condition of the country did not prevent the people from enjoying such amusements as they could get. I stopped one evening for the night in a little cluster of houses—it could not be dignified by the name of town—and, hearing that a dance was to be given in the dining room of the tavern where I put up, I was curious to see how people could make merry while their country was in a state of anarchy.

When the dancing began I took a chair on the veranda where I could look through an open window upon the dancers. The effect was heightened by the picturesque costumes of both the men and the women. The merry-makers came from the country round about, being made up of all sorts of persons, from the hacendado, or farmer, to the soldier, who made his living by fighting for some one of the factions struggling for the supremacy. Not only was the soldier present, but his wife and his daughters, for an army in Mexico is accompanied by the families of the soldiers.

I was much interested in watching these people. Among the better grade I noticed a young couple who, it was evident, were lovers. The man was a handsome fellow dressed in the costume of a hacendado, composed of tight trousers with a row of buttons on each leg, where a soldier's stripe is usually placed; a fancy waistcoat and a short jacket, also having a profusion of buttons. The girl wore the Mexican skirt of many colors, the Mexican bodice and the jacket decorated with gold braid.

I could not help contrasting the happiness beaming in the faces of these two young people with the cloud that hung over their country. They danced every dance together. While I was watching them a man came up behind me, and I felt that he was looking over my shoulder. I moved aside not to obstruct his view and at the same time turned my head to have a look at him.

I judged that he was connected with one of the various armies or bands which were sucking the lifeblood of Mexico. A more villainous face I never saw on a man. His eyes were following the couple that interested me, and as he watched his frown deepened. He stood only a few minutes looking at them, then went away.

At the end of each dance a number of the dancers came out on to the veranda to be refreshed by the cooler air outside. During one of these intervals a sharp report suddenly sounded at the other end of the veranda. I saw those who were inside start for the exit nearest to the point from which the sound came, and those on the veranda turned and hurried in that direction. I, too, arose and went to see what had happened.

A crowd had gathered about something or some one, but I could not see beyond the onlookers. When finally I succeeded in doing so I saw lying on the floor the young man I had been observing within, while the girl with whom he had danced was kneeling beside him moaning piteously. He had been shot and was dying.

Within half an hour the dance had been resumed, and, judging by the gaiety, one would not have suspected that the life of one of the company had been just snuffed out. I turned away from the scene, went as far from it as I could and waited for the house to become quiet that I might go to bed.

I did not get away from the place the next day. I had come to Mexico from curiosity, and I did not like to move on without learning more of the tragedy a part of which I had witnessed. I inquired who had done the shooting and was informed that a man who belonged to a Villa force in the neighborhood was the culprit. The young farmer who was killed was an advocate of Huerta. This is all the information I could elicit, but I inferred much more. I believed that the murderer coveted the girl who had given her heart to the farmer.

I lounged at the tavern during the day, uncertain as to just when I would move on southward. During the afternoon, while strolling among the houses that composed the place, I met the man who had looked in at the window at the dancers. I knew him to be the murderer and was surprised to see him still near the scene of his cowardly act. But I was destined to still further surprise. I saw him approach a house and walk up and down under a window.

They have a custom in Mexico called "playing the bear." When a man wishes to court a girl he takes position under her window and walks back and forth till either he gets a sign from her or gives up his attempt to win her. If he receives encouragement he proceeds step by step till he forms her

acquaintance and makes formal application for her hand.

I had read of this custom, but had never seen an instance of it. I surmised that the man might be wooing according to the Mexican custom. I could see him from the tavern veranda, and, going there, I took a seat in order to observe what would follow. While doing so the landlord came out on to the veranda, and, pointing to the walking man, I asked him what he was doing.

"He is the man who shot the hacendado last night. The girl who was robbed of her sweetheart lives there. The man is probably trying to see her and ask her forgiveness."

An hour had passed from the time I had first seen the man walking under the window when a figure of a woman appeared within the house. The walker stopped, and I saw that he was speaking. The woman came to the window, and, the sunlight falling upon her, I recognized the young girl who had been robbed of her lover. I wondered if the murderer could obtain forgiveness so soon after the tragedy.

The two talked together for some time; then the man held his hand up to the window. After some delay the girl took it, but I fancied I could see her shudder. A few more words between them and the man went away. He passed the veranda near where I sat, and I saw an unmistakable look of triumph on his face.

Interested in the drama which was being enacted before me, I determined to remain where I was till the last act had been played. I wondered if the girl, actuated by religious motives, had felt constrained to forgive the slayer of her lover. Had it not been for the triumphant look on the man's face as he passed me I would not have dreamed of anything more than this. But I had discovered that the Mexicans are a strange people, and one cannot in any event tell what a woman is going to do. Was it possible that this man, like King Richard III., would win her whose lover he had slain?

I had seen no sign of a burial of the first love and did not think it possible that the girl could take another until the body had been laid away. What, then, was my surprise when just before dark I saw the murderer approach the house where the bereaved girl lived and stand under her window! Presently she came out of the door, joined him, and they walked away together.

I confess that, though by this time I was prepared for almost anything in Mexico, I could not believe what my eyes revealed to me. I wished that I might follow the couple and see what occurred between them, though I shrank from witnessing a girl throwing herself into the arms of a man who had only the night before shot down in cold blood the man she loved.

I lit a cigar and sat smoking on the veranda. The twilight faded; the stars came out. All about me was so peaceful that I could not realize I was in a country torn with anarchy and a great part of it in the hands of robber bands; that within twenty-four hours I had witnessed an instance of the desperate condition of the country. But my mind was ever on the couple I had seen go out into the darkness. I thought of the lover of the evening before, a smile on his handsome lips returned by one on those of the girl he loved, now lying cold in death in one of the houses within the range of my vision, while the girl he loved had gone with his murderer.

It was quite dark, 9 o'clock perhaps, when, tired of sitting, I arose to stretch my legs. I walked down a roadway on which the two persons I had been watching had disappeared. Suddenly a figure, a woman's figure, flitted by me. She was moving rapidly, and I got a glimpse only of something white. And yet I was impressed with the idea that it was the girl who had lost her lover. If so, where was the man with whom she had set out?

Believing that nothing more of the drama which was unfolding would be revealed to me that night, I returned to the tavern and went to bed.

In the morning everything about me was still peaceful. The inhabitants of the place went about their daily vocations as usual. If there was war in the neighborhood it was too far distant to be heard. Still I refrained from leaving the place without more information as to what interested me. I determined to remain where I was until the climax.

In the afternoon occurred a simple funeral of the murdered man. The chief mourner was the girl who had been bereaved. The murderer was not in evidence at any time during the day. The poor girl was supported by her mother and attended by a few friends. I went into the tavern and asked the landlord what had become of the soldier.

"He was found this morning, not far from here, stabbed to the heart," was the reply.

"Who killed him?" I asked.

The landlord shrugged his shoulders and said that this was not known.

The climax to my drama had been played. Whether any one knew who had killed the soldier I do not know to this day. One thing I know. I saw him go out into the darkness with the girl whose life he had blighted, and I saw her come back without him.

The curtain had fallen; the audience—myself—had seen the play. There was nothing more for me but to move on. The death of a man shot down in the interval between two dances had not ruffled the tranquillity of the hamlet, nor had the finding of the body of his murderer twenty-four hours later any noticeable effect. What were these two lives in a land where bloodshed is the order of the day?

My curiosity as to Mexico had been satisfied. Instead of going on down to the capital I turned about and journeyed back toward home.

DEACON PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:26-40—March 19.
Another Faithful Deacon in the Early Church—A Gentle "Feeling After God"—Co-ordination of Divine Providences Bringing These Together.
"Understandest thou what thou readest?"—Acts 8:30.

DEACON PHILIP was just such a man as the Lord is pleased to use in the service of the Truth. Having proved himself faithful in the work of serving tables, he had been made an ambassador for God in the preaching of the Gospel at Samaria. Faithfulness in little things is sure to bring larger opportunities.

We are not informed by what means "the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip," sending him to the road on which he would find the eunuch's chariot. It was a time when the Lord used miraculous means of communication more than at present, doubtless for the very purpose of establishing both the faith and the work of His servants. Today we walk more by faith, less by sight and miracle. Yet so bright is the light shining upon the Word that we have much advantage every way, even over the early Church. There were no New Testament writings then.

The eunuch belonged to the kingdom of Meroe, which lay on the right bank of the Nile, and thence east to the mountains of Abyssinia. He was a court officer, evidently deeply religious, who had come into contact with the Jewish religion. In his religious fervor he had gone up to Jerusalem to worship and to gain additional knowledge of the true God. Evidently this occurrence was after the close of Israel's "seventy weeks" of special favor; for this eunuch was not a Jewish proselyte in every sense, eunuchs not being granted the privileges of the congregation.

The eunuch had come away from Jerusalem with a manuscript copy of the Prophet Isaiah's writings—a very costly treasure in those times. That he was doing more than simply reading aloud is evidenced by his language to Philip. The question, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" was a test, so to speak. If the eunuch understood what he was reading, he would have gladly said, "Yes, friend, I thank God that I do. Do you also understand it?" But had been in the wrong condition of heart, his answer might have been, "Mind your own business!" Or had he been hypocritical, he would have professed a knowledge of the subject and then, to cover his real ignorance, would have turned the conversation into another channel.

It was evidently of Providence that the eunuch was considering Isaiah 53. Like the majority of the prophecies, this could be understood only in the light of its fulfillment, and then only by those in proper heart attitude and under the instruction of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Philip had been taught of God through the Apostles, and was now able to communicate to the eunuch the simple story of the Gospel—that Christ had come into the world to redeem mankind, had died for man's sin, had arisen and ascended to glory; that now God was calling out an elect Little flock to be joint-heirs with Jesus in the Kingdom; and that as soon as this election should be completed, The Messiah (Jesus the Head, and the Church His Body) would be manifested in ruling and blessing power to all mankind.—Acts 3:19-23.

Undoubtedly Philip further explained to the eunuch that those who accepted Christ as their Savior, and who desired to become His disciples, taking up their cross to follow Him, should give their assent to this matter by baptism. Apparently it did not take the eunuch long to decide what his course should be; and his readiness of heart to follow the Lamb is indicated by his promptness to be baptized.

Philip was ready to receive the eunuch as a fellow-member of the Church of Christ and to administer to him the symbol of introduction into the Body of Christ—baptism—as soon as the eunuch gave evidence of having accepted the Lord and of having made consecration to Him. He made no request that the eunuch learn the catechism or confess something else, such as well-meaning but mistaken men in the Dark Ages promulgated as necessary aids as explanatory of the Bible. Neither did he say, "I will write your name as a member of the Church and will procure for you authority to preach the Gospel in Ethiopia." No; at that time the subject was not confused, befogged, as it is now.

On the contrary, Philip preached the Gospel in its simplicity; and the eunuch received it in like manner. Moreover, with the Gospel itself went the right and the authority to declare it. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Jeremiah 23:28.) All who have received the anointing of the Spirit, the unction from the Holy One, are thus fully commissioned to tell forth the Good Tidings.

The eunuch was just such a man as the Lord is pleased to use in the service of the Truth. Having proved himself faithful in the work of serving tables, he had been made an ambassador for God in the preaching of the Gospel at Samaria. Faithfulness in little things is sure to bring larger opportunities.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

Owosso, March 13th, 1916.

Regular meeting of the Commission, Mayor DeYoung presiding.
Members present, DeYoung, Hanson, Rosevear.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved as printed.

PETITIONS

The following petition was presented and referred to the department of public utilities: Petition No. 730.

To the Commission of the City of Owosso: The undersigned property owners respectfully petition your honorable body to cause a street lamp to be placed 150 feet from the corner of Cornwell Road on Harrison Avenue.

Signed: Harriet Linnaberry Moore and 2 others.

The following petition was presented and referred to the Mayor: Petition No. 731.

To the Mayor and City Commissioners of Owosso, Mich.: We the undersigned hereby petition your honorable body to cause the cleaning and removal of ice and water from the sidewalk on the property situated at the corner of Washington and Mason streets and presumed to be owned by the Masonic lodge of this city.

E. F. Hayward and 3 others.

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolution was presented and on motion of Mr. Rosevear same was adopted, ayes DeYoung, Hanson, Rosevear.

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Owosso that the claims and accounts hereto attached be approved and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby instructed to issue warrants on the City Treasurer against the various funds for amounts shown:

FROM CONTINGENT FUND	
The Arthur Ward Co.	1.41
Times Printing Co.	13.87
Expense account	2.95
C. A. Lawrence	7.93
M. DeYoung	1.80
Expense account	1.25
Gregory, Mayer, Thom Co.	18.45
J. J. Holcomb Mfg Co.	1.80
H. Peterson	8.50
Anna Horsfield	1.50

FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT FUND	
J. E. Evenden	1.00
Phillips & Taylor	2.95
W. S. Patterson	17.50
G. J. Dwyer	16.75
W. A. Wilson	16.75
A. Gerard	16.75
M. Kerby	16.75

FROM GENERAL STREET FUND	
Southard & Denmore	35
W. H. VanSice	2.00
Expense account	2.45
J. W. Herrington	1.25
D. Speck	12.25
Hesse	12.25
C. Gifford	12.25
J. Helt	12.25
D. Eldridge	10.87
W. Eldridge	4.00
L. Eldridge	3.00
Anton Horsick	2.50
J. C. Collier	2.50
Store & Def. Fund	24.75
F. P. Sutphen	7.30
Owosso State	1.50

FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	
Day Studio	1.25
McKiet Co.	50
J. C. Johnson	50
C. A. Lawrence	14
Scott Fern	1.00

FROM WATER WORKS FUND	
Southard & Denmore	2.45
Houston Coal Co.	48.07
Detroit Lead Pipe Works	8.70
Expense account	3.25
Expense account	3.75
W. J. Hall	50
O. Lewis	4.18

FROM LIBRARY FUND	
Jas Ely	12.00

STORE & DEFICIENCY FUND	
Geo. Freet	13.00

The following resolution was presented and on motion of Mr. Hanson same was adopted, ayes DeYoung, Hanson, Rosevear.

Resolved No. 921.

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Owosso that at the regular election to be held in this city upon the 3rd day of April, A. D. 1916, in addition to the other questions to be submitted to the electors of this city at said election the question of bonding the city of Owosso in the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$6,500.00) Dollars for the purchase and construction of a central public park to be located upon the west side of Water street between Mason and Main streets in said City of Owosso, said sums of money so to be raised to be used to purchase the necessary lands, and to do the necessary grading, leveling and purchase the necessary materials to construct said park, be submitted to the electors of the City of Owosso for approval or rejection. Said bonds to be dated October 1, 1916, and shall bear interest at the rate not to exceed five per cent (5 per cent) per annum, payable semi-annually and shall be paid serially Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars each year upon the 1st day of October, A. D. 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929.

Be it further resolved that the form of the question to be submitted to the electors of this city at said election be as follows: "Shall the City of Owosso issue bonds to the sum of Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$6,500.00) Dollars payable Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars each year upon the 1st day of October, A. D. 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, for the purpose of purchasing and constructing a central public park?"

Be it further resolved that the clerk of the City of Owosso be and is hereby directed to give proper notice as required by law of the

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Notice of Registration of Women Electors.

To the women electors of the City of Owosso: Take notice, that by virtue of a resolution of the Commission of the City of Owosso adopted March 13th, 1916, the several boards of registration for their respective wards will meet in said City of Owosso upon Saturday, April 1st, 1916, for the purpose of registering women electors for the purpose of voting upon the proposition to issue bonds for \$30,000 for fire department purposes and upon the proposition to issue bonds for \$5,000 for park purposes.

Said Boards of Registration will meet at the following places:

1st ward—211 North Hall street.
2nd ward—Times Printing Office, East Main street.
3rd ward—City Hall, East Main street.
4th ward—Fourth Ward Voting Booth, South Water street.
5th ward—1005 West Main street.

All women possessing the qualifications of male electors and having property assessed for taxes within the city of Owosso shall be entitled to register and vote.

Said Boards of Registration will remain in session from eight o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon of said day.

Dated March 14th, 1916.

ARTHUR H. DUMOND, City Clerk.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Andrew G. Barry, deceased.

We the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, J. of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the office of the County Treasurer in the City of Corunna in said County, on Saturday the 6th day of May, A. D. 1916, and on Thursday, the 4th day of July, A. D. 1916 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate and that four months from the date of each of said days, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 6th day of March, A. D. 1916.

FRANK H. RUSH, J. A. RICHARDSON, Commissioners.

Order of Appearance.

State of Michigan, The Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee, in Chancery.

Herman B. Sturtevant & William J. Blood, Complainants.

vs.
Daniel Lingo, S. S. Wheeler, James Till, George Shipman, the unknown heirs of George Shipman, William Craig, Alonzo P. Lingo, and Sarah Elizabeth Lingo, his wife, and First National Bank of Corunna, Allard Durham, J. B. Wheeler, James S. Wilson, James S. Wilson, Scott Van R. Kelsey, Richard Thomas, Lucy L. Thomas, Anthon Franka, Louisa Franka, Joseph Franka, Augustus Franka, Joseph Franka, William Franka, John Franka, Orville Franka, Louisa Franka, guardian, Matilda Dredock, Joseph Tschubert, and Charles, T. Armstrong, Solan D. Wood, or their or any of their unknown heirs, devisees, legatees and assigns, Defendants.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee, in Chancery, on the 19th day of February, A. D. 1916.

In this case it appearing from the sworn Bill of Complaint now on file in the said cause that the residence of the defendants above named are unknown except the last known residence of the defendant, Tod Kincaid above mentioned is in the city of Cleveland, State of Ohio, and that it is not known whether said persons are living or dead except said Tod Kincaid, or where they may reside if living, or whether the title, interest, claim, lien or possible right has by them or either of them been assigned to any person or persons, or if dead whether they or either of them have personal representatives or heirs living, or where they or some of them may reside, and whether such title, interest, claim, lien or possible right has been disposed of by will, and also appearing that after diligent search and inquiry the names of the persons who are included as defendants in said cause without being named cannot be ascertained.

2. Therefore, on motion of Leon F. Miner, Attorney for said complainants, it is ordered that the appearance of said defendants be filed in said cause on or before the 30th day of May, A. D. 1916, and that in case of their appearance that they cause their answers to the Bill of Complaint in said cause to be filed and a copy to be served on said complainants' attorney within 15 days after service on them of a copy of said Bill of Complaint, and that in default thereof, that said Bill of Complaint be taken as confessed by said defendants.

3. It is further ordered that within 30 days from the date hereof that said complainants cause a copy of this order to be published in The Owosso Times, a newspaper published and circulated in said county, and that such publication be continued therein once in each week for six successive weeks.

4. That this suit is brought to quiet the title to the south one-half of the southeast one-quarter and the east one-half of the southeast one-quarter of the southwest one-quarter of section 12 in township 7 north range 3 east, and the west part of the southwest fractional one-quarter of section 7 being thirty five (35) acres, One-fifth (5) acres of the northwest corner of the northwest fractional one-quarter of section 18, all in township 7 north range 3 east, and all in Shiawassee County, State of Michigan.

Dated this 19th day of February, A. D. 1916.

SELDEN S. MINER, Circuit Judge.

ALBERT L. NICHOLS, Clerk of Court.

LEON F. MINER, Attorney for Complainants.

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